i) One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores provided to the States/UTs by the Central Government to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies;

ii) Monitoring of the working of consumer disputes redressal agencies through the National Commission;

iii) States and Union Territories requested to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies and maintain a panel of suitable candidates for appointment as President/Member;

iv) amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder to facilitate quicker disposal of cases by the redressal agencies.

Quality of jewellery

1670. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the consumers of gold jewellery are being cheated by way of not keeping the quality specifications;

(b) whether it is a fact that the survey done by the BIS revealed that 88 percent of the samples they had collected do not meet the quality specifications; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to monitor the quality of the jewellery sold through consumer outlets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched a Hallmarking Scheme of Gold Jewellery in April, 2000 to protect consumers from being cheated while purchasing gold jewellery. Certification of purity of Gold Jewellery under this Scheme is being done in accordance with the Indian Standard IS: 1417: 1999.